Claims:

1 An agrochemical composition which includes an agrochemically active compound and a compound of the formula (I):

$$R^1 - (R^2) X^1 - [\text{ Link }] - R^3 \quad (I)$$

where

R^1 is polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl;

R^2 is H or hydrocarbyl, or is a group as defined for R^1;

X^1 is N; $N^+ \rightarrow O^-$; N^+R^4 - where: R^4 - is C_1 to C_6 hydrocarbyl carrying an anionic substituent, particularly - CH_2 - COO^- ; or N^+R^5 An^- where: R^5 is a C_1 to C_{20} hydrocarbyl; and An^- is a charge balancing anion;

Link is a linking group of the formula: - CH_2 - CHOH - X^2 -

where X^2 is

a direct bond; - CH_2 - O -; - CH_2 - $N(R^6)$ -; - CH_2 - $(OA)_p$- O -; or - CH_2 - $(OA)_p$- $N(R^7)$ -;

where

OA is an oxyalkylene residue;

p is from 1 to 100;

R^6 is H; C_1 to C_8 hydrocarbyl; or a group R^1 - $(R^2)X^1$ - CH_2- CHOH - CH_2 - where R^1, R^2 and X^1 are as defined above; and

R^7 is H; C_1 to C_8 hydrocarbyl; or a group R^1 - (R^2) X^1 - CH_2- CHOH - CH_2- $(OA)_p$- where R^1, R^2, X^1, OA and p are as defined above; and

R^3 is hydrocarbyl.

2 A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 is a polyhydroxy alkyl group having a linear C_4 to C_7 chain and at least three hydroxyl groups directly bonded to chain carbon atoms.

3 A composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein R^1 is a group of the formula: - CH_2 - $(CHOH)_4$ - CH_2OH.

4 A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^2 is an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl group, R^5 is an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aralkyl, An^- is and alkali metal or ammonium ion, R^6 and R^7 are each independently alkyl or alkenyl groups and R^3 is a C_{10} to C_{30} alkyl, alkenyl, alkaryl, aryl or aralkyl group.

5 A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the oxyalkylene group(s) OA is (are) oxyethylene, oxyproylene or mixtures of oxyethylene and oxypropylene groups and p is from 1 to 50.

6 A composition as claimed claim 1, wherein Link is a group of one of the formulae: - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - O -; - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $(OA)_p$- O - ; - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $N(R^6)$-; or - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $(OA)_p$- $N(R^7)$ -; where OA, p, R^6 and R^7 are as defined in claim 1.

7 A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the agrochemically active compound is one or more plant growth regulators, herbicides, and/or pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides, acaricides, nematocides, miticides, rodenticides, bactericides, molluscicides and/or bird repellants.

8 A composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the agrochemically active compound is or includes at least one water soluble herbicide.

9 A composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the water soluble herbicide is or includes at least one phosphonomethyl glycine, particularly Glyphosate and/or Sulfosate; at least one phosphinyl amino acid, particularly Glufosinate; and/or at least on bipyridinium compound, particularly Paraquat.

10 A compound of the general formula (IIa): R^1 - (R^2) X^1 - [$Link^1$] - R^3 where R^1, R^2, and R^3 are as defined in claim 1 and $Link^1$ is a linking group of one of the formulae: - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $(OA)_p$- O -; - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $N(R^6)$ -; or - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - - $(OA)_p$- $N(R^7)$ -; where OA, p, R^6 and R^7 are as defined for formula (I) in claim 1.

11 A compound of the general formula (IIb): R^1 - $(R^2)X^{1a}$ - [$Link^2$] - R^3 where R^1, R^2, and R^3 are as defined above for formula (I); X^{1a} is N^+->O^-, N^+R^4 - or R^5An^- where: R^4 -, R^5 and An^- are as defined above for formula (I); and $Link^2$ is a linking group of one of the formulae: - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - O -; - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $(OA)_p$- O - ; - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $N(R^6)$ -; or - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - $(OA)_p$- $N(R^7)$ -; where OA, p, R^6 and R^7 are as defined above for formula (I).

12 A method of treating vegetation by applying to plants and/or soil a composition as claimed in claim 1.

13 A method of killing or inhibiting vegetation by applying a formulation as claimed in claim 1, which includes one or more growth regulators and/or herbicides and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.

14 A method of killing or plant pests by applying a formulation as claimed in claim 1, which includes one or more pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides or acaricides, and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.